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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 660
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the newly designated
Jennings A. Jones College of Business at Middle
Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should take note of those energetic and civic-minded Tennesseans who employ their time, effort and considerable talent to serve the needs of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Mr. Jennings A. Jones, a noted businessman, philanthropist, friend, and former mayor of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, born in 1909 in Del Rio, in the county of Cocke, Mr. Jones was a 1931 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in electrical engineering; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from UT-Knoxville, Jennings began employment with the Tennessee Electric Power Company and moved to Murfreesboro; when the TVA took over the electric company, he was urged by his wife to find a business they could buy or build. Their first entrepreneurial adventure resulted in the Jones Locker and Cold Storage System; he later became part owner and president of what is currently known as Southland Supply Co., Inc., a

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ready-to-mix concrete supplier, and was involved in numerous real estate development partnerships; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Jennings Jones became chair of the Murfreesboro Planning Commission, where he served until 1950; in 1948, he was appointed to the Tennessee State Planning Commission by Governor Browning, and from 1950-54, he served as mayor of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor of Murfreesboro, Mr. Jones led the City Council in the establishment of the Murfreesboro Housing Authority; they not only built low-cost housing for Murfreesboro, but cleared and turned fifty-five acres of slums into valuable real estate, within record time; and

WHEREAS, this former director of the Tennessee Municipal League also chaired the Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Commission during its infancy and also served with unwavering dedication as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rutherford Hospital where he served as Chairman, and the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Development Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones also served as the director of the Murfreesboro Bank & Trust Co., as well as its successor, for thirty years, during which time he served on the board's executive committee; he was a founder of the former National Savings Life Insurance Company, and was responsible for the home office being located in Murfreesboro, which brought more revenue and capital into the city; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart veteran of the United States armed forces, Jennings Jones served his country as a former Lieutenant Colonel during World War II; and

WHEREAS, always endeavoring to make a difference in the community in which he lives, Mr. Jones has made several "seed money" gifts to various organizations, including the MTSU's Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, MTSU's Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, Crimestoppers of

Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, the Excel Card program, computer education, the MTSU Landsat teaching and mapping program, and school mini-grants; and

WHEREAS, in recognition for Jennings Jones' expertise and immense generosity to Middle Tennessee State University, and in an effort to help the college lead the way into the 21st century, MTSU President James E. Walker presented Mr. Jones with the Middle Tennessee State University President's Award during the university's 1999 Spring Commencement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs stated of Mr. Jones, "Jennings' life and work experiences and the gifts he has made to the university program have made us richer and our programs richer. The Joneses have shaped the lives of countless students"; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman wholly devoted to his family, Mr. Jennings A. Jones is most fortunate to share love and companionship with his devoted wife of over sixty years, Rebecca Ransom Jones, and their four children, Ransom Jones, the late Russell Jones, Frances Vaughan, and Ellen Dupps; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Jones has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others in reaching their fullest potential, winning the respect and admiration of his peers; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Board of Regents has recently named the Middle Tennessee State University College of Business in his honor as The Jennings A. Jones College of Business in recognition for all of Mr. Jones' outstanding works in the Murfreesboro community and for all of the support he has given to MTSU; and

WHEREAS, men of Mr. Jones' stature do not often walk among us, and it is most appropriate that we should provide a lasting tribute to his life of purpose and commitment to the greater good of this state and this nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize the newly designated Jennings A. Jones College of Business at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and honor the man, Jennings A. Jones, for his outstanding achievements and generous heart as a tribute to this distinguished Tennessean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be transmitted to Middle Tennessee State University and to Mr. Jones, with this final clause omitted from such copies.